RSDO Newsletter
June 2010

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A Message from the RSDO Chief

Greetings and salutations! The Rapid Spacecraft Development Office (RSDO) is back in the saddle and prepared to assist federal government customers (and their affiliated institutions) with their spacecraft and spacecraft component procurement requirements. The RSDO has contracted with a number of domestic and foreign spacecraft suppliers to provide a catalog of proven spacecraft designs under the Rapid Spacecraft Acquisition III (Rapid III) Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract. Customers can purchase these designs and modify them as necessary via fixed-price delivery orders to satisfy their individual needs. The Rapid III contract terms and conditions are modifiable, as well.

The RSDO can assist customers with Requests for Information (RFI), Study Requests for Offer (RFO) and spacecraft buy RFOs. All Rapid III delivery orders offer the customer a full range of services to include spacecraft design, build, and test; payload integration and test; launch support; and on-orbit checkout and acceptance. Pricing information and Rough Order of Magnitude (ROM) estimates are only available from the spacecraft suppliers via RFIs or Study RFOs.

Although we are open for business, the Rapid III Catalog will not be posted until June 2010. However, preliminary spacecraft capability information is available. Please contact the RSDO via email (rsdo@gsfc.nasa.gov) or phone (301-286-1289). Additional information may be obtained on the RSDO web site (http://rsdo.gsfc.nasa.gov).

Gregory F. Smith
Chief, Rapid Spacecraft Development Office

Meet the RSDO Team

The RSDO is ready to help you procure the right spacecraft and spacecraft components for your mission needs. Our staff members have a wealth of NASA and GSFC experience and will guide you step-by-step through the RSDO process to ensure a smooth and fast procurement. Here's a brief introduction to our team:

Greg Smith, RSDO Chief: As Chief of the RSDO, Greg is responsible for the overall operations of the RSDO and for ensuring that the RSDO achieves its mission—to provide NASA missions and other federal agencies with extremely fast procurement of spacecraft and payload space. Greg has served as RSDO Chief since 2002. Before joining the RSDO, Greg started his NASA career at GSFC as an instrument manager in the Tiros Project (a.k.a. the Polar Operational Environmental Satellite, or POES Project), which led to a Mission Manager position in the Earth Observing System (EOS) Program. Following his tenure at EOS, Greg served as the Deputy Project Manager for the Ice, Cloud, and land Elevation Satellite (ICESat) mission.

Art Unger, RSDO Associate Chief: Art's primary responsibility as RSDO Associate Chief is to ensure that the RSDO is meeting the needs of its mission customers and stakeholders. Art reports to the RSDO Chief, but also serves as the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR). On behalf of the Chief, he is responsible for tracking and coordinating internal RSDO work activities. Art's daily work efforts center on guiding RSDO mission project customers through the RSDO processes, tracking RSDO process issues, helping to define and coordinate project needs, scheduling RSDO internal work, and reviewing project technical documentation. Art also aids and coordinates activities associated with proposal evaluations and considers how RSDO processes can be improved from lessons learned. Art brings his previous technical experience on several flight missions and instruments to bear at RSDO. Prior to joining the RSDO team in 2004, Art held a variety of technical management positions at GSFC on projects such as the Polar Operational Environmental Satellite (POES) Project, the Earth Observing System (EOS)-Terra Project, the National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) Preparatory Program, and the Laser Interferometer Space Antenna (LISA) Project.

Naseema Maroof, Mission Integration Manager: Naseema is responsible for supporting RSDO customers with obtaining a spacecraft from the Rapid III catalog to satisfy each mission's unique requirements. She guides the customers regarding the procurement tools to employ (RFIs, Study RFOs, and Spacecraft RFOs) depending on each customer's needs. She also leads the on-ramp evaluation process, which allows new spacecraft vendors and their buses to get on the contract as new additions to the Rapid III catalog. Naseema represents RSDO to the GSFC Integrated Design Center (IDC) to guide new missions in the initial assessment of spacecraft needs. She also represents RSDO at the GSFC New Business Working Group and Tag-up bi-weekly meetings. Naseema has worked at NASA since 1980 in a variety of technical positions at both GSFC and NASA Headquarters.

Cynthia White, Contracting Officer (CO): As CO, Cynthia is responsible for administering all aspects of RSDO contacts, including Rapid III agreements between customers and RSDO vendors. The CO writes all of the RSDO Requests for Proposals (RFPs), RFOs, and contracts; awards the Delivery Orders (DOs); is responsible for contract approval; and approves all RSDO invoices. In addition, Cynthia is responsible for ensuring that contractors are in compliance with

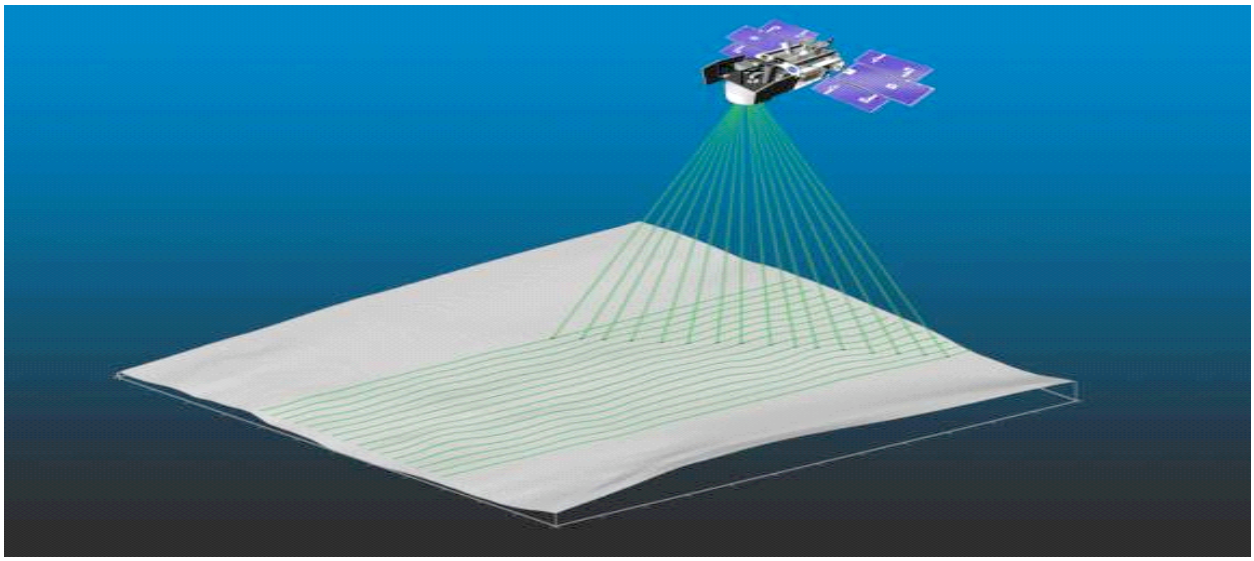
the terms and conditions of each contract. Cynthia brings over 25 years of NASA experience to RSDO, and previously served as the GSFC CO of the NASA Solutions for Enterprise-Wide Procurement (SEWP) contract, a Government-Wide Acquisition Contract (GWAC) that provides the latest in Information Technology (IT) products for all Federal Agencies.

Kevin. Maloney, Project Support Specialist: Kevin has been assigned to the RSDO for nearly 13 years. Besides a multitude of administrative functions, he also oversees the internal IT security needs of the office and maintains the RSDO website. On May 21st he will celebrate his 20th anniversary at the Goddard Space Flight Center.

ICESat-2 Spacecraft Accommodation Study Planned for Summer 2010

The NASA ICESat-2 mission plans to implement a spacecraft accommodation study through the RSDO in the summer of 2010. ICESat-2 is a follow-on mission to continue the global ice sheet elevation and sea ice thickness measurements established by ICESat. NASA is developing the ICESat-2 mission in response to the US National Academy of Sciences Decadal Survey conducted in 2007, which documented the continuation of the ICESat measurements as a top priority. ICESat-2 is targeted for launch in 2015. The observatory will be launched into a near-polar Low Earth Orbit at an altitude of 600 km, with an inclination of 94 degrees and a 91-day repeat. ICESat-2 will repeat the ICESat ground-track.

The ICESat-2 observatory includes one instrument—an improved laser altimeter called ATLAS (Advanced Topographic Laser Altimeter System). ATLAS is designed to measure ice-sheet topography and associated temporal changes, sea ice elevation, and land surface topography. In addition, ATLAS includes an advanced Laser Reference System (LRS). The LRS supports the altimeter measurement by using a star tracker for precision attitude determination.



The ICESat-2 Conceptual Design

The purpose of the ICESat-2 RSDO Spacecraft Accommodation Study is to provide the ICESat-2 Project Office with an assessment of various mission engineering study topics and a conceptual mission-specific spacecraft design based on the Rapid-III Core Spacecraft with any modifications or options required to meet mission-unique requirements.

A Request for Offer for the spacecraft is planned for release in fall 2010 to select the contractor who will design and build the spacecraft, integrate the ATLAS instrument, and provide testing and launch support, as well as oversee mission operations for the first sixty days after launch. Goddard's ICESat-2 Project Office, Code 425 manages the project.

For additional information, please contact John Leon/ICESat-2 Observatory Manager at 301-286-5962.

Small Business Notice

The RSDO strongly suggests that you consider employing the services of a small business when you select your subcontractors. For more information on official policies and goals concerning the integration of these companies into the NASA business environment, please visit the website of NASA's Office of Small Business Programs (OSBP) at http://osbp.nasa.gov/.